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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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#### WESLEY A. D'EWART TO TAKE OATH AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Wesley A. D'Ewart of Montana will be sworn in as Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Public Land Management during a ceremony at 4 p.m., today (October 6) in the office of Secretary Douglas McKay. The recess appointment of Mr. D'Ewart was approved by President Eisenhower yesterday (October 5).

Mr. D'Ewart, 66, succeeds Orme Lewis as Assistant Secretary. Mr. Lewis resigned effective September 15, to return to private law practice in Arizona.

A veteran legislator who, since early this year, has been a Special Assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. D'Ewart is intimately acquainted with public lands and related resource problems. During 10 years as a member of Congress representing a Montana district, Mr. D'Ewart served on the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

During three terms in the House of Representatives and two in the Senate of the Montana State Legislature, Mr. D'Ewart was a member of the Legislature's Conservation Committee, dealing with land and water problems of the State. In addition to problems involving Federal lands—about 40 percent of Montana is federally owned—the Conservation Committee had to do with the management of some five million acres of State lands.

Mr. D'Ewart first was elected to Congress in a special election on June 5, 1945, and he served continuously until the first of this year. During that entire period, he was actively engaged in work with the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs or its earlier counterparts, and in this capacity made official visits to many national parks and Indian reservations ranging from Alaska to Florida. On Committee business, he has toured Alaska, Puerto Rico, Hawaii and the Virgin Islands, and has become familiar with problems affecting those areas which will come within his jurisdiction as Assistant Secretary.

Mr. D'Ewart was born in Worcester, Mass., and received his elementary and high school education there. He later attended Washington State College at Pullman, Wash.

From 1912 until 1918, he was a forest ranger, resigning in August 1918, to go into the ranching business in Park County, Montana. He still owns a ranch there, now operated by his son, William.

Mr. D'Ewart long has been active in Montana livestock and reclamation organizations, and brought especially comprehensive knowledge of these fields with him when he came to Congress. His experience since that time has further equipped him for his new Interior Department post.

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